

BACK TO PRABHUPADA

The magazine of the real Hare Krishna movement

Issue 19, Spring 2008

"Defeating tyranny in the realm of thought"

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The Great Guru Hoax — Part 3!

Also in this issue:

***Sahajiya gopi* imitation**

**A new dawn of hope
in the Orient**

**ISKCON guru's original
ritvik understanding**

**GBC spokesman loses
faith in the GBC**



Iskcon Revival Movement

Introducing: The Great Guru Hoax, Part 3



BACK TO PRABHUPADA

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**His Divine Grace A.C.
Bhaktivedanta Swami
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Editor: Krishnakant

Changing address?

Don't miss out on your free
subscription to *BTP*!
Contact us as below.

**For more information, and
letters to the editor, please
write to:**

Back to Prabhupada
PO Box 1056, BUSHEY
GREAT BRITAIN, WD23 3XH

or email:

irm@iskconirm.com

website:

www.iskconirm.com

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Welcome to Issue 19 of *Back to Prabhupada (BTP)*.

Our readers will have recently received our second Special Issue ("SI2"), sent straight after issue 18, which highlights a major trend that has been occurring in the last few years in ISKCON. And this is the attempt by ISKCON gurus to hold on to power by gradually appearing to adopt the IRM's position. Hence in SI2, titled "In their own words", we demonstrated how ISKCON leaders are agreeing with the IRM's arguments and conclusions. In this way, by arguing that their ludicrous guru system is actually a type of *ritvik* (representative of the *acharya*) system, they hope to defuse opposition to it, whilst continuing to practise the same Great Guru Hoax! This using the truth of Srila Prabhupada's position as a front to simply gain and hold on to power, we can now call "The Great Guru Hoax, Part 3". This continues the evolution of the guru hoax from parts 1 and 2 (where the guru pie was extended from the original 11 self-appointed gurus to everybody via a new voting system), as the guru hoax mutates and adapts, just like a virus, to new situations to survive and hold on to power. In The Great Guru Hoax, Part 1, "*ritvik*" was used as the tool via which guru ambitions were fulfilled, with *diksa* guruship (i.e. acting as an initiating spiritual master with disciples) being justified on having first been appointed as a *ritvik* (officiating priest). Now, in The Great Guru Hoax, Part 3, the hoax has extended further to claim one is even acting like a *ritvik*, whilst in *practise* one continues to try and act as a *diksa* guru.

In this latest part 3 hoax, the ISKCON guru hoaxers have also been joined by overt "*ritvik*" hoaxers, who even more than the ISKCON gurus are appropriating the *ritvik* approach to achieve similar ends to the ISKCON guru

hoaxers: to keep the money flowing in, hold on to power and lord it over others – in sum, to satisfy the same subtle sex desire for profit, honour and distinction. However, the *ritvik* hoaxers go further than their guru hoaxer counterparts in their use of *ritvik* to garner position and power. Some examples are:

a) Accepting that there should be no *diksa* gurus currently, but then re-defining a *ritvik* as being a type of "apprentice *diksa* guru in waiting"; or re-defining *ritvik* as a stop-gap measure whilst *everyone* is a "*diksa*-guru in waiting". Additionally, the *ritvik* is also defined as having many of the powers of a *diksa* guru.

b) Accepting that there should be no *diksa* gurus, but then claiming that the *ritvik* as the "giver of initiation" can alone "connect" one to the *parampara* (disciplic succession) properly, thereby attempting to exercise control and power over the "disciple" just like a *diksa* guru would.

c) Accepting that there should be no *diksa* gurus simply as a means to reject the authority of a guru and GBC over a temple or project, thus giving sole control of properties, men and money to the temple or project leaders. Similarly, one can justify rejecting authority to launch any "project" one likes, which one can then "lead" independent of any control.

Hence, it does not matter what one may call it, but rather as the Vedic aphorism states, *phale-na pariciyate*, everything must be judged by the result. Is the end result of adopting the *ritvik* approach that it has simply served as a tool to satisfy whatever personal desires one has – whether for guruship, money, power, properties, projects, or whatever? Who has benefited, and how? What has changed – has there simply been a shift in power, with every-

thing else being "business as usual", with no attempt made to actively combat the guru hoax unless one's position is threatened? The IRM, however, is the only organisation dedicated full-time solely to establishing the truth about Srila Prabhupada's position, rather than simply using Srila Prabhupada's position to either set up income streams or one's own personal project. This is done not as a convenience in order to gain or retain power over people and properties, but as THE mission, the only mission. Indeed, it is by attempting to harvest the fruits of this work that the *ritvik* hoaxers seek to also perpetrate The Great Guru Hoax, Part 3. So please beware of false imitations – demand the reality – contact *BTP* to find out who is real and who is just another hoaxer (guru or *ritvik*) using *ritvik* merely as a "front".

The Great Guru Hoaxes can basically be catalogued as:

The Great Guru Hoax, Part 1

- By appointment of *ritviks*.

The Great Guru Hoax, Part 2

- By voting.

The Great Guru Hoax, Part 3

- By re-defining/using *ritviks* (or the *ritvik* approach) as a front.

Part 3 is also called the "guru" hoax even though it can also involve the use of "*ritviks*" by *ritvik* hoaxers, since, just as with the guru hoax, there is the same aim to get profit, honour and distinction. So whether as a "guru" or "*ritvik*" hoaxer, the name of the game is the same: use Srila Prabhupada and his philosophy to get position, control and enjoy.

Please feel free to write to me at the following address if you have any questions, criticisms or comments: irm@iskconirm.com.

Thank you and Hare Krishna.

Yours in the service of Srila Prabhupada,

Krishnakant



Letters to the editor

EDITOR'S NOTE: Due to a continued overwhelming response, the publication of letters has been running approximately 9 months behind for quite some time now. We tried previously to run an extra page of letters to clear the backlog, but this was to no avail since the number of our subscribers continues to increase, so do the letters! We humbly beg your patience.

“Having now seen your BTP photo evidence of gross deviations in two Temples, I would like to tell you something that has seriously bothered me for many years now. As a young devotee, I had been trained under personal supervision of His Divine Grace in 1976 to perform arati to Krsna Balaram in Vrindavan. The process (brief) was to first offer articles to Guru (Parampara) then Nitai Gaura and finally Radha Krsna. Srila Prabhupada had stated that this should be the standard for all ISKCON.

1) Early 1996, I was walking with Sivarama Swami (SRS) by the lake at Bhaktivedanta Manor, where we had a short conversation about the recent changes to how the arati was now being performed; offering first to Krsna then Radha, Gaura, Nitai and finally Srila Prabhupada. His explanation was totally outrageous and proved a lack of faith in our Spiritual Master or even downright disrespectful and neglectful of His (Prabhupada's) instructions. SRS nonchalantly said, ‘**Srila Prabhupada didn't really know about how to worship Deities!**

2) Krsna Ksetra Prabhu (another Guru) tried to justify the changes by saying there were no scriptural references to the method of worship we previously performed, and that we (ISKCON) had to be seen as a credible organisation by the Hindus of the world.

3) So now in 2007 we see that the same so-called Guru Sivarama Swami is now taking even more outrageous steps to disobey Srila Prabhupada's instructions, to introduce and engage his (so-called) disciples in worshipping lesser demigods like Lord Siva and Durga for any excuse.”
- Mahakratu Das, Belfast, N. Ireland

“Hare Krishna! Haribol!

In the early 1980s I lived for several months, several times, with the devotee community at Devasadhana Mandir in Detroit, MI, USA. I have also lived in the community of devotees in Alachua, FL, USA, several times.... It is, of course, not solely the fault of the “Guru Hoax” that I left these communities and the association of devotees.... I realize that! However, the “Guru Hoax, Part I” contributed GREATLY to my decision to leave the association of devotees. I found myself doubting the wisdom and authority of Srila Prabhupada himself as a result. After all, if these men who were appointed Gurus of ISKCON by Srila Prabhupada were actually in such a position as a result of the choices and selection by Srila Prabhupada, how could Prabhupada be so wrong in his spiritual vision or judgement, and actually be the Acharya and eternal spiritual master of anyone? So I thought! I was SO wrong!!! I must thank you folks at BTP/IRM who are clearing away my doubts and misperceptions! All Glories to You! Please accept my most humble obeisances!

I had always wondered what Srila Prabhupada meant when he said something like “I will have many stars.... but only one moon!” And I have come to believe that the IRM is that one moon, as you are accurately reflecting Srila Prabhupada's desires in regards to diksha initiation into the Hare Krishna movement!!! Without Prabhupada, there would be no ISKCON and no siksa given by anyone!

I want to encourage you and acknowledge IRM and BTP as vital to furthering the mission of HIS DIVINE GRACE Srila Prabhupada! All Glories to Srila Prabhupada! All Glories to the ISKCON Revival

Movement! May the minds and hearts of the GBC be opened, blessed, and fully understand the ramifications of the revelations expressed through your untiring dedication to TRUTH, the Spiritual Master, the Holy Names, and Sri Krishna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead!”

- Steve Grose, Michigan, USA

“It is no joke. Sack all false gurus. ISKCON's credibility is at stake. Long live ISKCON.”

- G.S. Hedge, New Jersey, USA

“Prabhupada is PRABHUPADA! If anyone tries to imitate Srila Prabhupada let them join Hollywood or Bollywood. In the name of Srila Prabhupada, don't cheat the innocent public with your artistic talents. We can take acting lessons from you, but not Srila Prabhupada's philosophy. Sorry Bogus-Hoax-Gurus!!!”

- Ramana Kumar, Hyderabad, India

“For a very long time I was a follower of ISKCON, and I avoided the truth. My parents constantly told me that Iskcon has turned into a brainwashing, corrupt, money-hungry cult infested with child abusers and molesters. I didn't understand that till way later. Now I have distanced myself from today's ISKCON. I pray and hope that one day Prabhupada's ISKCON will be restored and true Krishna Bhakti will prevail. I also recently watched the GBC reaction video to BTP, that is very disturbing and it confirms how bad today's ISKCON has become. But I have faith in Lord Hari, and he will one day liberate these ignorant masses. Keep up the good work! Jai Prabhupada!”

- Suren Pandya, California, USA

“I pray that your mission will be successful and that you (we) can fulfil Srila Prabhupada's instructions! I will appreciate any back issues! Hare Krishna!”

- Gurvastaka Devi Dasi, Florida, USA

“The world trend today is on accountability and transparency! You are in the right direction. May Lord Krishna shower his mercy on you.”

- Dayal Nitai Das, Durban, South Africa

“I'm so glad to receive this magazine. Please, don't stop! I would like to join you in this Prabhupada seva. Haribol!!!”

- Lavanga Sakha Das, Belem-PA, Brazil

“Grazie Mille! Most important for former Bhagavan disciples!”

- Andrea G. Bononi, Milan, Italy

“Bless you in all the wonderful service you are involved in to bring ISKCON back to Srila Prabhupada. Your servant,”

- Gauravani devi, Auckland, New Zealand

“IRM is very good. Long live IRM. I am a disciple of Srila Prabhupada. Your servant,”

- Pravas Das and Vishalakshmi Dasi, Washington, USA

“I received the Back to Prabhupada magazine, it's very interesting and I would like to continue to receive it, if it is possible. Hare Krsna!”

- Madan Mohan Das, Curitiba, Brazil

“Thank you for the great job you are doing in restoring Srila Prabhupada as the only and genuine Guru of Krishna Consciousness! Then all deviations would end by themselves. Hare Krishna!”

- Aivars Dalders, Ventspils, Latvia

“Thank you very much for continuing to send me Back To Prabhupada magazine over the years. It is greatly appreciated by providing a positive alternative to the guru nonsense within ISKCON. Please continue in your determination to rectify Srila Prabhupada's Movement.”

- Nadia Das, Queensland, Australia

“Really nice magazine, keep up the good work. Thank you. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.”

- Kapildev Raghooleg, Triolet, Mauritius

“Keep on the good work. Truth always succeeds.”

- R. Ramdeehul, London, England

Letters to the editor *(continued from page 3)*

"Keep up the good work on the principles of Prabhupada ji, Hare Krishna."

- Dr. A.K. Sharma, Dept. of Urology, Watford General Hospital, Watford, England

"After spinal damage and a mild stroke, ISKCON devotees have mostly abandoned me. Your magazine you send me is the only reminder of Srila Prabhupada."

- Punya Sloka Gaura Das, Queensland, Australia

"Vandaniya Gurudev Shree Prabhupad Maharaj. We and our relatives and friends are happy to read and have the Godly blessings of this publication. Thank you. God bless everybody."

- T.R. Pancholi, San Antonio, Texas, USA

"Keep up the good work. All glories to Srila Prabhupada."

- Satsvarupa Das, Johannesburg, South Africa

"Until recently, I never knew ISKCON was in trouble. After a conversation with an IRM devotee and receiving a few BTP magazines I was shocked at the audacity of the guru hoaxers, as well as saddened that Srila Prabhupada could be so let down. Keep up the good work IRM!"

- Dan Slater, Florey, ACT, Australia

"Hare Krishna! Thank you, I have received the latest journal. What a blessing."

- William Andersen, California, USA

"The Buddha speaks of unwavering intent in respect of moral questions. ISKCON is in tatters morally because they do not intend straightly. BTP pursues them with intent."

- Robert James Hughes, Wrexham, Wales

"Keep up the good work."

- Pierre Noteqlint, Horby, Sweden

"I love your publication!!"

- Alexander McLure, Houston, Texas, USA

"Thank you so much! We definitely look forward to receiving this."

- Scott and Amanda Sarra, Florida, USA

"In Krishna's blessing, thank you!"

- Wayne Perkins, Philadelphia, USA

"Dear Krishnakant,

I love the magazines. The IRM is doing good work to ensure Srila Prabhupada's teachings are understood. Your work at exposing the Iskcon guru scam is truly a great service to the world community of aspiring devotees. I first got interested in Srila Prabhupada's work in 2001 and subsequently purchased and continue to read his books. I guess I should consider myself fortunate not to have been taken in by the 'bricks and mortar' and power politics that goes on in Iskcon.

Again I want to thank you and your team for your work. Hare Krishna,"

- Don Randall, Toronto, Canada

"I am spiritually delighted."

- D.S. Mallikar Juna, Bangalore, India

"Grateful for your hard work, outreach preaching efforts."

- Cheryl A. Peck, Connecticut, USA

"Really excellent read. Keep up the good work!"

At one time, I practiced ISKCON/ Hare Krishna spirituality, but I have fallen, since I found out the corruption and cultishness of GBC ISKCON spirituality. I want to get back into Krishna Consciousness through the IRM. Please offer insight and please send The Final Order book to me in the mail. You have my support in the IRM."

- Roger Perry, New York, USA

"I read the issue at my friend's place and liked it immensely. Kindly accept my subscription."

- Karran Memra, New Delhi, India

"Thank you for the wonderful job you are doing by letting us know about the truth. Keep it up in the name of Krishna."

- Anil Ghoorbin, Petit Raffray, Mauritius

"I am captivated and would enjoy any additional information! Thank you!"

- Jeffrey Schulz, California, USA

"I am regular reader of Back To Prabhupada which is very informative. It's a spiritual gift for man."

- Sunil Kumar, Bangalore, India

"Hare Krishna and pranams to all prabhhus. Please send BTP Magazine to my address at all times. I like to read this. Lord Krishna love and bless all of us. Your servant."

- Sachidananda Das, Edmonton, Canada

"Sree Krishnakanth jee!"

Kindly accept my sincere appreciations for your continued efforts in Iskcon's cleansing operations and bringing in of Srila Prabhupada's Iskcon back to shine. May Lord Sri Krishna dwell in you and see to it that your hard work will benefit every true lover of Iskcon, through your endeavours. Hare Krishna."

- U. Prabhakar, Tirupati, India

"You people are doing a very great job. May Lord Krishna give you his blessing and all protection."

- Chandan Kumar Shah, Bangalore, India

"IRM is the real Bhaktivedanta Manor Dham. Followers of IRM are obeying perfectly the instructions of Srila Prabhupada. I include a donation. Wish you continued success."

- John Byrne, Cavan, Eire

"You are doing great work."

- Pranjal Joshi, Jaipur, India

"Thank you!"

- Jitendriya Harris, Michigan, USA

"Congratulations for pushing forward this so-excellent project. All glories to Srila Prabhupada! All glories to Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu and His sankirtana movement! Jai Sri Krishna!"

- Adrian Auler, San Francisco, USA

"Thank you for helping me in my spiritual life through your magazine. Jaya Prabhupada."

- Esdra Barreto, Edmonton, Canada

"Thanks for sending me a copy of BTP. I read this magazine and it cleared many confusions about ISKCON gurus."

- Nitish Kumar, New Delhi, India

"I chanced upon laying my hands on this enlightening magazine. I would love to have it coming to me issue after issue."

- K.K. Rangian, Chennai, India

"HARE KRSNA.

I am very much attracted to your BTP and The Final Order book. I think these books are the windows to my soul which has opened for knowing more truth about ISKCON fake gurus and my Guru Maharaj Srila Prabhupada. Prabhupada clearly said to become ritvik but these rascals became gurus."

- Jayanth Dev, Bangalore, India

"I love your magazine. You saved me from initiation with one of the current GBC. Thank you."

- Darryl Eschete, Louisiana, USA

"I very much appreciate the BTP magazine. It is an eye opener for ISKCON devotees like us."

- Radha Mohan Das, Andhra Pradesh, India

"Thank you ever so much. All glories to Srila Prabhupada."

- Dennis Watkins, Florida, USA

"I thank you all who are involved with this work, it is undoubtedly a praiseworthy work and I pray to my God that you can carry out the work without any disturbance."

- Dipankar Kumar Das, Khulna, Bangladesh

"Srila Prabhupada is the only one who can properly spread Mahaprabhu's truths and he still is a living guru. Though he has shed his material form, he is still the great acharya of our time and some of his disciples lose sight of and faith in this."

- Bhakta Rick, Hauula, Hawaii, USA

"Hi. I'm a Bhakta, and was shocked by the YouTube video, filmed at Ratha-yatra."

- Bhakta Peter, Skokie, Illinois, USA

"I have received an issue of BTP to read, now I must have more. Please send me a copy of The Final Order. I am happy you are doing real noble service for everybody in the world. I appreciate you for revealing the truth. Please keep up the momentum."

- G.M. Shah Parsa, Kashmir, India

"Thank you for keeping me informed with vital information."

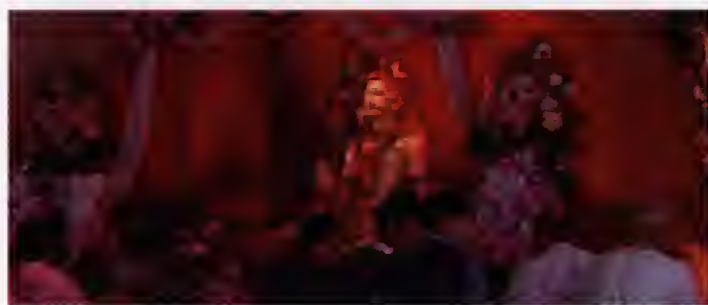
- Laura Fay Lewis, New York, USA

Quotes, Notes and News (QNN)

Another ISKCON guru establishes demigod worship in ISKCON



Above: HH Bhakti Charu Swami worships Lord Shiva at ISKCON Ujjain



Above: Devotees taking darshan of Lord Shiva in the ISKCON temple room

Thus far, BTP has reported on demigod worship being conducted in ISKCON Abentheuer in Germany; the ISKCON farm in Hungary; and ISKCON Zurich in Switzerland. To this can now be added the ISKCON temple in Ujjain, India, the fiefdom of HH Bhakti Charu Swami ("BCS"), as the photographs above, taken on the date of the Shiva-ratri festival, illustrate.

On page 10 of this issue, we read Srila Prabhupada's crystal clear instructions about conducting demigod worship in ISKCON: it should not be done. This latest incident is simply another confirmation that following Srila Prabhupada's ejection as the Guru of his own movement, the organisation today claiming to be ISKCON has continued to deviate from Srila Prabhupada's directives in all respects.

Another gross example of this deviation, again by BCS, is his desire to turn ISKCON into a mundane business enterprise. He re-

cently held Vedic yajnas and puja for the ground-breaking ceremony for an IT Park he is planning to build. The details, as given on his website, are:

"The IT Park will be the highest building in Madhya Pradesh consisting of 15 stories and be twin towers. 2 floors of shopping mall, and 12 stories of exclusive IT Offices, conference rooms, state of the art auditorium and stereoscopic planetarium [...] it will also host IT related setups like a 3D animation studio, an animation school, advanced software base, a training school, a call centre, and research and development. Plus a TV channel broadcasting 24 hours a day all over the world!" (BCS website, archived March 18th, 2008)

ISKCON guru confirms permanent dilution in purity

In the editorial for BTP 15, it was stated that:

"the original deviation of per-

petrating the Great Guru Hoax has expanded into other deviations of commercialisation, secularisation, Hinduisation, demigod worship,"

Now an in toto confirmation of this has come from ISKCON itself, as the following excerpt from a talk given by HH Jayadvaita Swami, a GBC voted-in guru, BBT trustee and senior leader in ISKCON, shows:

"By the late 1970s ISKCON, formally not a religion but something more: a radical movement for the re-spiritualization of human society was vigorously seeking acceptance as a bona fide religion and seeking to prove its religious status by such acts as giving out food to the poor. A sect on the church road well traversed by other groups. I think ISKCON can expect to see itself making further adjustments and accommodations for the sake of public acceptance and access to greater resources. [...] Another area of reinterpretation concerns ISKCON's relationship with Hinduism. ISKCON has gone from being beyond Hinduism to being - very much Hindu! Temples have become centres for making cultural and social events, priests earn a livelihood doing weddings and hair cutting ceremonies, congregational members are encouraged to send their donations and get the blessings of the Lord and their names on plaques. Temples once the exclusive hold of Gaura-Nitai and Radha-Krishna now are dominated by murtis of demigods. In some quarters ISKCON has undergone considerable Indianisation."

(HH Jayadvaita Swami, ISKCON Studies Conference, Italy, July 28th, 2007)

In other words, a movement set up by Srila Prabhupada for the "re-spiritualisation of the entire human society" has now turned into a mundane church like all other religions, interested in simply making money and surviving, regardless of the cost to its purity. This is the natural outcome

when a movement becomes disconnected from the parampara (disciplic succession), having disobeyed the order of the spiritual master, principally by first usurping his position as spiritual master.

GBC spokesman against IRM loses faith in the GBC!

In BTP 12 ("Official IRM v GBC academic debate") we wrote about the publishing of an historic debate between the GBC and the IRM, organised by Prof. Dr. Rahul Peter Das of the Institute for Indology and South Asian Studies at the Martin-Luther-Universität (University) of Halle-Wittenberg, Germany, and published as an academic book entitled: *The Rival Positions in the IRM-GBC Controversy within ISKCON*. The person authorised by the GBC to officially present their position in this debate was His Grace Krishna Kirti Das. We had already reported that this GBC spokesman for its guru system in this debate had lost faith in his own GBC guru, HH Hridayananda Das Goswami, claiming he was effectively "useless" and "deviant", due to not even understanding Srila Prabhupada's most basic of teachings regarding what constitutes "illicit sex". Now we can report that the same GBC spokesman does not even have faith in the GBC either, claiming that ISKCON is on a "self-destructive course of accommodation with Western culture and values"*. So even the very person the GBC chose to defend its guru system against the IRM thinks not only that his own GBC guru is a deviant, but also that the whole GBC is massively deviating!

Yet the GBC expect others to have faith in his defence of their guru system against the IRM!

* (A Brief Exploration of the History of ISKCON's Social and Ideological Conflicts, Krishna Kirti Das, February 13th, 2008).

Quotes, Notes and News (QNN) *(continued from page 5)*

Guru imitates gopi vow

Below we see ISKCON GBC voted-in guru HH Sivarama Swami ("SRS") boasting how he is imitating almost in toto a vow which was performed to the demigoddess Katyayani only by the *gopis* (the topmost, intimate cowherd girl associates of Krishna):

"Devotees ask what kind of vow I am doing and what is its purpose? This is my answer. In the wake of the vow the young *gopis* performed to have Krsna as their husband, I am following a kind of Katyayani *vraṭa*. I eat *havisya* once a day, bathe in cold water, don't shave, chant prayers to and worship Devi daily. [...] I have two purposes. One is that Katyayani devi make me the object of Radha-Syama's grace; *kuru te namah*, "Please do this!". The other purpose is that she protect the *sankirtana* devotees doing the marathon. I pray to Yogamaya, "The *gopis* accepted so many austerities so that you would bless them with Krsna's company. They hardly ate, they rose early, they bathed in the cold river, they worshipped you with devotion. And you fulfilled their desire."

[SRS, Marathon SMS #19, December 14th, 2007]

But Srila Prabhupada has never prescribed that one can imitate the vow made by the *gopis*, albeit for a different purpose, since their activities are transcendental, and such imitation is forbidden and condemned as *sahajiya* (cheap imitation of the advanced spiritual state):

"They did not go to Katyayani for begging: *dhanam dehi, rupam dehi, yaso dehi*—no. "Give me Krsna. Give me Krsna." So there is no harm to worship the deity, I mean to say, other demigods.

But that is not possible for anyone. That was possible **only** for the *gopis*, because they did not know anything except Krsna."

(Srila Prabhupada Lecture, 17/9/1975)

"Because they are all devotees, they did not know except Krsna, and they prayed to the Katyayani, although they are married, they prayed to Katyayani before they were married, that "Let Krsna become our husband." [...] The *gopis*, Radharani, they are expansion of the spiritual energy of Krsna. Don't think they are ordinary women. They are Krsna. [...] **It is not that to imitate gopis. That is sahajiya. That is sahajiya.** [...] **Don't try to imitate. That is sahajiya.**"

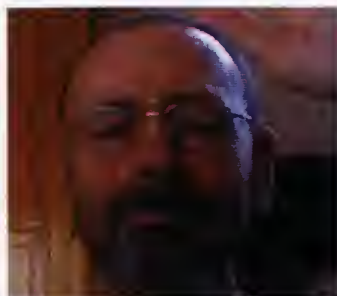
(Srila Prabhupada Lecture, 11/6/1976)

Srila Prabhupada clearly states that **only** the *gopis* can engage in doing these things, and he says **three times** that to imitate them is *sahajiya*. Therefore, unless SRS is actually a *gopi* himself, he is a *sahajiya* imitator. This latest "*gopi bhava*" activity of SRS is continuing the trend of a long line of "*gopi*" activities by himself:

1) First from 1991-95, SRS took "*gopi* training" from HH Narayana Maharaja ("NM"), a member of the Gaudiya Matha, which led him to being temporarily banned by the GBC from both visiting Vrindavan and initiating.

2) Then a few years later he began writing books about the "pastimes" of the *gopis*, admitting that he was fabricating the stories via his imagination in the book *Na paraye 'ham*, and being inspired by NM's book *Venu Gita*, he wrote a book called...*Venu Gita*!

3) Now he is imitating the vow the *gopis* performed to obtain Krishna as their husband, simply changing the reason for performing the vow.



HH Sivarama Swami:
Gopi imitator

In addition, we can note this is another example of HH SRS's promoting demigod worship, having seen in the last issue how he had already introduced the worship of Lord Shiva and Mother Durga in Hungary.

When is a diksa guru not a diksa guru?

In the last issue we had reported on a new type of initiation which had been concocted by HH Sivarama Swami, which was neither an initiation nor a re-initiation, but a half-way house between the two (please see BTP 18, "Guru falldown confusion lays hoax bare"). This concoction was necessary to deal with yet another guru falldown. Now the GBC, following his example, have decided to concoct a new type of *diksha* guru, again to deal with a guru falldown. Thus Satsvarupa Das ("SD"), whose falldown and shenanigans have been chronicled in our previous issues, has now been deemed to be a "retired *diksha* guru":

"SDG will continue as a *sannyasi* in a low key profile and will assume the status of "retired" *diksha* guru."

(GBC Executive Committee announcement, issued December 25th, 2007).

This means he *is* a *diksha* guru for those he has already initiated, but he cannot be one for anyone else. It really does seem as



Satsvarupa Das:
"retired diksa guru"

if HH Sivarama Swami has started a trend here with his "alchemy", as new "entities" such as "low-profile *sannyasis*" and "retired *diksha* gurus" are being churned out of the GBC's laboratory.

Though the GBC are appearing to "censure" SD to satisfy the ISKCON masses, other ISKCON gurus continue to glorify him as a great exalted saint:

"They (your publications) have always given me a strength to continue that I rarely if ever have found from any other source. [...] Please continue to write. Your letter explaining your problems with Mataji seems to be basically self-explanatory. [...] Basically it is a problem that I have, you have, and so many people in the pages of *Srimad-Bhagavatam* have." (Letter to Satsvarupa Das from Hanumatpresaka Swami, GBC-voted in guru, December 25th, 2007)

Indeed, Satsvarupa is himself still very attached to maintaining his new "semi-exalted" status:

"One man says he won't recognize I'm a *sannyasi* until the year is up. But the GBC has upheld my *sannyasa* now. They have also said that those who wish to continue hearing from me faithfully are still my disciples. I stand strongly for these principles." (Satsvarupa Das, *India Journal*, 16/1/08)

Whilst a *sannyasi* and being allegedly selected as one of the 11 "gurus" by Srila Prabhupada

in 1978 (The Great Guru Hoax, Part 1), the same guru system and gurus which acted as the root for the current expanded guru system, Satsvarupa admits he was occupied with his love for a female disciple:

"As a young *sannyasi* I developed a secret attraction for Pranada Dasi in 1978 in Los Angeles. [...] From 1980 to 1985, due to my ongoing attraction to her [...] Therefore, my attraction lasted about seven years. [...] In December of 2001, [...] began an illicit and intimate romantic phone, e-mail, and letter exchange lasting over a year. During this year she also visited me three times in Ireland, and during one such visit, there was physical intimacy."
(Letter from Satsvarupa Das, issued December 25th, 2007)

Thus we can see that ISKCON's current guru system was already rotten even before it got going, as it draws its authority from the "zonal gurus" such as Satsvarupa, who helped authorise the new expanded guru system in the mid-'80s, whilst also being in love with a married disciple. It was also during this period that he wrote his censored and contaminated *Lilamrta* biography of Srila Prabhupada (see BTP issues 6 and 14 for an exposé of this biography). In previous issues we had also exposed Satsvarupa's "sex novel" which led to the GBC forcing him to withdraw it. However, they have only seen fit to withdraw "half" of his *diksa* guru status, still rendering him "semi-active". Nor have they seen it fit to withdraw his *Lilamrta* biography, written as it was when he was in the throes of his "*sannyasi* love".

The choice before us is clear – we can either accept the guru system Srila Prabhupada gave us, with him as the *diksa* Guru with *ritvik* representatives – or the ever-changing concoctions which have been brewed up in the GBC's laboratory since 1978.

Academic publishing update

We had mentioned in BTP 16 how the IRM had been extensively profiled in an Encyclopædia. Now another major academic book on the Hare Krishna Movement has also made reference to the IRM. *Hare Krishna Transformed* by Prof. E. Burke Rochford cites *Back To Prabhupada* and *The Final Order* a number of times as a reference source, and also states:

"The fragility of ISKCON's institutions of authority offered various pro-change groups the political opportunity needed to push for change. Perhaps the most significant was the emergence of the *ritvik* movement, discussed in chapter 7, which has challenged the very legitimacy of ISKCON's guru leadership (Desai et al. 2004; Rochford 1998b). [...] A determined minority joined together to form an insurgent organization, the ISKCON Revival Movement, to restore what they considered the "true" ISKCON."

The reference in brackets here is to the IRM position paper *The No Change in ISKCON Paradigm*, authored by the editor of BTP and published by Columbia University Press. Then in chapter 7, Prof. Rochford discusses the IRM in more detail noting:

"Estimates by the founder of the IRM suggest that "many hundreds" of devotees worldwide are active IRM supporters. Global interest, if not active support, is suggested by the readership of the IRM's *Back to Prabhupada* magazine. In 2005, it had a reported circulation of ten thousand in more than one hundred countries."

Back To Prabhupada seen to represent authenticity

Another academic has commented on *Back To Prabhupada* being representative of those devotees who wish to stick to an orthodox representation of Srila Prabhupada's teachings:

"There are also devotees who fear being swallowed up by mainstream Hinduism or secular hu-

manism, and who are concerned with strict authenticity of text and ritual. "Back to Prabhupada" is the battle cry of the disillusioned."

(Professor Anna King, *40 Years of Chant and Change*, 2007)

This is indeed accurate, for we are concerned very much that the strict authenticity of Srila Prabhupada's teachings be maintained, in the face of the diluting forces of secularisation, Hinduisation and commercialisation with which ISKCON has become severely infected, as highlighted by BTP, issue after issue.

ISKCON commercialisation update

Following our previous reports of how ISKCON has deviated into all manner of mundane commercial enterprises, with no connection to Krishna consciousness, simply to amass money, we find that an ISKCON restaurant in Australia (listed on ISKCON's website as a bona fide ISKCON centre) even runs a regular cinema, showing all the latest Hollywood movies:

"We recommend you allow at least half an hour to dine before going upstairs to the cinema [...] Tickets to the movie only are available on the night for \$11.90. [...] The movie room is a boutique cinema which offers seating on mainly upholstered floor cushioning carefully designed to give both support and fabulous comfort. Guests are encouraged to kick off their shoes, stretch out and really make themselves at home. [...] Due to the intimate nature of our cinema we regret we cannot allow children under the age of five."
(ISKCON Govinda's, Sydney, website).

Indeed, newspapers have given rave reviews to the "intimate nature" of the cinema:

"The story of Elly and Ian's first date at Govindas. "Govindas is a Sydney dating institution. For



**Srila Prabhupada:
The real deal**

the past 28 years couples have been canoodling on the couches in the boutique cinema after gorging on vegetarian food filled with good karma in the restaurant below. [...] Forget uncomfortable cinema seating; at Govinda's, shoes come off and patrons lie back on rows of long cushions that bear more resemblance to beds than seats. [...] Both agree that Govinda's is the perfect setting for a bit of romance..."

(*Sydney Morning Herald* (Spectrum), Aug 31-Sep 6, 2007, from Govinda's website)

BTP has continued to report how following the original deviation of removing Srila Prabhupada as the *diksa* Guru of ISKCON, ISKCON has continued adding more and more deviations, with demigod worship, government schools, "couples yoga", mantras for sale, automobile blessings, and a whole plethora of commercial business ventures, even hiring out temple space for bingo, etc. Now we can add an IT park, shopping mall and even a regular "Hollywood" cinema. It seems all we are missing now is a nightclub! It's about time "ISKCON" dropped the "Founder-Acarya: His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada" attribution from its name, and indeed the name "ISKCON" itself, and honestly accepted that it is no longer the institution founded by Prabhupada by a long stretch. To continue to associate Srila Prabhupada's name with such activities is a disgrace.

The new dawn of hope in Khasadesa



COMING TO
PRABHUPADA

By
Guruseva
Das

Guangdong
Province,
China

When I was about 5 or 6 years old, I was so curious about how all the living creatures and the other planets came into being, though I could never find any correct answer in a typically atheistic education system in a country like Khasadesa. The only vague answer I was given then by my grandma was that there were many Bodhisattvas and celestial beings far beyond this earthly planet. But she could not tell me any more than that, except for asking me to perform good deeds and feel awe and reverence to the Bodhisattvas. My parents' explanations were no better than my grandma's, and even until now they believe in nothing but their own sense perception. So practically in my early days, I had never been in contact with anyone who could guide me into the proper understanding between matter and spirit.

It was in 1988 that I met one friend from a local Qigong (breathing exercise) class who, at the same time, was very fond of Tai Chi and Hatha Yoga. I was not interested in Hatha Yoga at that time, but was interested in mystic power as was shown on some TV program or in books on some famous Indian "sadhus" or "swamis". One day, I was dragged by this friend to attend a "Yoga Demonstration and Meditation Class" established in one high school, with my aim being to learn some special "feats" from this program. However, to my disappointment, nothing special ever happened from the demonstration.

I thus stopped attending such programs, but later on my friend again induced me to attend another Yoga class. And at the end of that class, everyone was asked to follow the teacher and chant some "strange" syllables hung up on the wall. They said it was the best and most effective way to have our senses and mind under control. I knew nothing about such syllables, but just followed what others did and chanted with my eyes half closed, expecting some "miracles" to occur. Of course, there were no miracles like flying in the sky, nor could I produce any magic from the chanting. But somehow this time I experienced something which I had never before experienced in all my life. Later I was told that the 16 Latin syllables are called the "Hare Krishna Maha-mantra", and by chanting this *Maha-mantra* one can achieve the highest perfection of life.

I wanted to be able to take full advantage of this yoga and chanting program, and was then introduced to the Guangdong Yoga Society. I used to go to this Yoga Society which was actually the Hare Krishna centre in Khasadesa, listening to *Bhagavad-gita* lectures in the association of the devotees, and at the same time helping them with anything I could do; and there were more than 300 members. After two months, I got a chance to work in Hong Kong. By the causeless mercy of the Lord, I was able to take shelter of the Gaura-Nitai temple which is just about 15 minutes walk from my company. Everyday I would get up before 4 o'clock, attending *mangal-arati* (morning worship), listening to *Bhagavatam* lecture, and after that packing my lunch box and going to work. And at night time, I would help wash dishes or do some cleaning job with another Indian *bhakta* named Bhagavan. On Saturday

and Sunday, I would take much of my time doing some menial service in the temple or go on *harinama* and *sankirtana* (chanting and book distribution) with the devotees. I used to pray before the Gaura-Nitai Deities that "my Lordship, please kindly have me engaged in this way all my life so that I will no more waste this rare chance of human life". When my work in Hong Kong finished, I returned home and immediately rushed to the Guangdong Yoga Society to see my long-departed devotee friends and teachers; but, unfortunately, I was told the Society would have to be closed down due to "some reason". After the closing of the centre, 95% of the members were dismissed, and only some 15 sincere *bhaktas* and *bhaktinis* (male and female devotees) remained. However, we all stuck together and regained our courage and strength by regularly meeting together, reading from *Bhagavad-gita* in small groups or having *kirtana* (chanting) in the park on Sundays.

Going through so many hardships, I was recommended in 1992 to take initiation from Tamal Krishna Goswami ("TKG"), who was extolled by many as "the best and purest guru in ISKCON" or "the most loyal son of Srila Prabhupada" etc. Indeed, we all regarded him as a "good-as-God Guru" at that time and dedicated our life to serve him. As one of his first "disciples" in Khasadesa, I had exerted myself to carry out his order in the preaching field, working again as a full-time *sankirtana* devotee and distributing many of Srila Prabhupada's books in the street along with my devotee wife. In the next year, I was given Brahmin initiation by Giridhari Swami who did that on behalf of TKG, as the latter was busy somewhere. This is, in fact, akin to the "ritvik" initiation system as handed down by Srila Prabhupada as

early as the 1970s even before his disappearance. In the very same way, I was also authorized to repeat the same process for some local devotees, acting as a "ritvik" and giving them first and second initiation on behalf of TKG!

My faith in TKG had been unflinching, until one day in 1998 I came across a book named *The Final Order (TFO)* authored by Krishnakant Prabhu. Besides going through the whole book (*TFO*), I also studied other papers like *The Final Order Still Stands* and *Best Not To Accept Any Disciples* etc. by the same author, and such study eventually convinced me about what was right and wrong in regards to the ISKCON guru issue. In the beginning, I could never believe what I read, as TKG did not seem to be a "bad" person at all in my eyes. Nor could I believe that ISKCON could have become so corrupted. Having thought that we had finally found the answer to such a huge spiritual void which we had experienced our whole lives, it was therefore a great shock to find that we were being actually cheated in the name of religion. However, after reading TKG's "Pyramid House Confessions", as well as so many other contradictory statements given by him, Umapati Swami (in his *Disciple of My Disciple* paper) and the GBC, as exposed in the IRM papers, whatever faith I had in him, the other "gurus" and the whole GBC completely faded away. So did that of many of my Godbrothers and -sisters. We could never accept and tolerate the fact that these "as-good-as-God gurus" were lying, and then lying again to cover their original lies, just to cheat the innocent devotees.

These guru hoaxers had been making one interpretation after another to try and justify their 'guru parampara succession' since Srila Prabhupada's disappearance,

with the final result that now they have withdrawn their "final *siddhanta*" (conclusion) paper on the issue altogether! (see *BTP Special Summary Issue* – "GBC defeated by The Final Order" – Ed.). So 30 years have passed and they still have no explanation for just how exactly they were ordered to become successor *diksa* (initiating) gurus to Srila Prabhupada. Therefore, instead of being blind followers in a bogus system, we decided to say goodbye to the current corrupted ISKCON and reset our faith in its Founder-Acarya, His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, who is the only bona fide *diksa* Guru for the Hare Krishna movement. It is said that it is better to maintain an empty barn than to keep many cows who are not giving milk, so why not have a few serious devotees than have many sentimental or crooked people in a spiritual community? Without putting Srila Prabhupada in the centre of ISKCON exactly as he ordered, the problems within ISKCON can never be solved. Rather, the problems just become worse. Indeed, here in Khasadesa, many of the "disciples" or followers of TKG have already left him and taken re-initiation from Narayana Maharaja of the Gaudiya Math, as thus the guru hoax is causing more and more people to lose faith in Srila Prabhupada altogether.

During my years working with ISKCON, and wholeheartedly serving under TKG, some "senior" foreign Srila Prabhupada disciples, who were TKG's right-hand men, would preach on TKG's behalf, and were thus responsible for introducing many of the local devotees, including myself, to become TKG's "disciples". Some of these same lieutenants for TKG initially became supporters of *TFO*, and were responsible for helping distribute it in Khasa, and this initially helped the message spread, since many of the local devotees respected them, having been originally introduced to Krishna



Guruseva Prabhu leads devotees at a local programme

consciousness by them. However, just as these "senior" devotees had previously "controlled" us on behalf of TKG, it soon became clear that their sudden "conversion" to *TFO* was simply to use *TFO* as a tool to lord it over us again, only this time, on their own behalf and not for TKG.

It took some time for the local devotees to see what was happening, since initially we were just so happy to have had our eyes to the guru hoax opened. One former "senior disciple" of TKG gave me the task of translating *TFO*, but he instructed me that I had to add HIS and some senior foreign devotees' "purports", and other things, so the final product was not the same as *TFO* as it existed in its original form and all other languages where it had been translated without change. I was not told that all this was being done without the author's knowledge. Only later, when I got in contact with the author, Krishnakant Prabhu, did I realise what was actually going on. That having endured a guru hoax, these former guru hoax cheerleaders were now using "ritvik" to perpetrate their own guru hoax ("The Great Guru Hoax, Part 3" – please see editorial in this issue – Ed.), where they were simply trying to seize even more control than they had before. Thus their personal "acarya" ambitions derailed any early attempts at successful implementation of correctly following Srila Prabhupada, since the lo-

cal devotees learned from them that "ritvik" simply meant to become independent of the GBC and ISKCON "gurus", and become local, small "acaryas" with their own small independent groups. I have now restored the translation of *TFO* so that it is the same as the original, and every other language it has been translated into. So just as we had earlier rejected the foreign "gurus" and their supporters who have only entered Khasa to mislead us via the guru hoax, we have also now rejected these ex-followers of the guru hoax who are trying to achieve the same result, only this time using "ritvik" as the cover. Instead, I am in full agreement with the IRM as to how we should act to take back ISKCON for Srila Prabhupada. Now I have successfully managed to build a solid united group of devotees. We have our own local website, with the *BTP*, *TFO* and other IRM publications translated, and my next project is to print the IRM publications already available online. I have established a network of over 170 devotees all over Khasa, in all the major cities, and one by one, they are being educated about the guru hoax and the work of the IRM to serve Srila Prabhupada correctly. We hold regular programs where these devotees are being helped to properly understand the IRM's united international mission to establish Srila Prabhupada's real movement, rather than the local "mathas" we had previously

"A network of over 170 devotees all over Khasa has been established, in all the major cities, and one by one, they are being educated about the guru hoax and the work of the IRM"

known, whether under the "guru" or "ritvik acaryas".

Only with a worldwide organisation with everyone following in the same way, will we eliminate the desire for everyone to set up their own independent *ritvik* groups, which is what has happened to date. We only need a pure mission and unmotivated service with no scope or room for any personal ambitions or desires. Srila Prabhupada and his movement has been spiritually killed for the last 30 years, and it is continuing. So how can we not protest and do something? Therefore, as disciples of Srila Prabhupada, no one should stand by and allow this cheating to go on in Srila Prabhupada's name.

So, soon we hope to inundate the whole of the guru hoax operations throughout Khasa with the facts in a printed form, in the local language, which had never been available properly before. Websites and translations are ready, and printing is ready to go. In this way, we hope to finally free the local people from having suffered one hoax after another, and thus the dawn of hope, in the form of Srila Prabhupada's real mission, can take root in Khasadesa.

All glories to His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada!

Readers are cordially invited to follow Guruseva's example by sending us your story of just how you came 'Back to Prabhupada'.

Srila Prabhupada speaks out on demigod worship in ISKCON

The past 4 issues of *BTP* (please see page 5 of this issue) have illustrated the growing trend towards demigod worship in ISKCON. Prior to this, we had also highlighted the appeal for funds for the construction of a temple for Lord Ganesh and Lord Shiva at a new ISKCON project in San Diego, spearheaded by GBC member Badrinarayan Das. According to ISKCON guru, HH Jayadvaita Swami:

"ISKCON has gone from being beyond Hinduism to being -- very much Hindu! Temples have become centres for making cultural and social events, priests earn a livelihood doing weddings and hair cutting ceremonies, congregational members are encouraged to send their donations and get the blessings of the Lord and their names on plaques. Temples once the exclusive hold of Gaura-Nitai and Radha-Krishna now are dominated by murtis of demigods." (HH Jayadvaita Swami, ISKCON Studies Conference, Italy, July 28th, 2007)

Given the above, below we see just how far ISKCON has deviated from Srila Prabhupada's instructions; hardly surprising when he has been kicked out as the Guru of his own movement.

ISKCON temples not meant for demigod worship

"So I think that the Murti which you have got is not Visnu Murti, but it appears to be a Murti of Lord Siva. Anyway, this Murti is not worshipable by us. In our temple we shall always worship Radha Krishna Murti or Lord Jagannatha."

(Srila Prabhupada Letter, January 15th, 1969)

"You know that we have refused even the Hindu people to hold demigod worship in our temple [...] As a matter of fact, we should not allow anyone to hold any function in our temple, otherwise than Vaisnava principle."

(Srila Prabhupada Letter, October 10th, 1968)

"Regarding your Tuesday class at your place, you can continue it as a sub-branch of ISKCON Radha Krishna Temple. The procedure should be exclusively for chanting Hare Krishna mantra or singing other songs just like Govinda

jaya jaya, Gopala jaya jaya ..., and nothing more. Demigod worship in your house or thinking a demigod as equal with Narayana or Krishna should be stopped altogether, actually that is not the fact."

(Srila Prabhupada Letter, January 10th, 1970)

"Some Hindus are supporting. I don't want a Hindu temple. Our constitution is different. We want everyone. Krsna consciousness is for everyone. It is not a Hindu propaganda. People may not misunderstand."

(Srila Prabhupada Meeting, June 9th, 1969)

"[...] this Krsna consciousness movement simply advocates worship of Krsna to the exclusion of the demigods."

(Srimad-Bhagavatam, 4.31.14 purport)

"If we divert our attention to worship other demigods, then our faith in Krishna will be flickering. We Gaudiya Vaisnavas, under the guidance of Lord Caitanya, want steady attention for Krishna, not flickering.

Therefore, in our line of thoughts and action there is no scope for worshipping any other demigods."

(Srila Prabhupada Letter, January 29th, 1970)

"The great sages and demigods never established statues of men or demigods, but they established temples of Visnu for the benefit of common men, to raise them to the platform of God consciousness."

(Srimad-Bhagavatam, 3.1.23, purport)

Demigod worship condemned

"Similarly, this verse condemns worship of the demigods. We may show our respect to the demigods, but the demigods are not worshipable."

(Srimad-Bhagavatam, 6.16.38, purport)

Demigod worship meant for unintelligent

"In Bhagavad-gita (7.20) it is said that persons who worship demigods have lost their intelligence: kamais tais tair hrta jnanah. They are much attracted to sense

gratification, and therefore they worship the demigods. [...] Such persons are bereft of Krsna consciousness and are not interested in devotional service to the Lord."

(Srimad-Bhagavatam, 3.32.2, purport)

"In the Bhagavad-gita it is stated that one who worships the demigods like Brahma, Siva, Indra, Chandra, or demigoddesses like Kali, Durga, Sarasvati, etc. is described as a person who has lost his intelligence"

(Srila Prabhupada Letter, February 25th, 1968)

Atheists

"Srila Narottama dasa Thakura has said [...] if one wants to become a pure, staunch devotee, one should not take shelter of any of the demigods or -goddesses. [...] It is to be concluded, therefore, that those who worship demigods or self-proclaimed incarnations of God are all atheists."

(Sri Caitanya-caritamrta, Adi-lila, 10.11, purport)

IRM Mission Statement

Since the physical departure of His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupada from our material vision on November 14th 1977, the International Society For Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), the great movement which he single-handedly founded in 1966, and which is the only hope for humanity, has undergone a massive deterioration in its spiritual purity. This has been due to various deviations from the instructions and standards given by Srila Prabhupada, the chief of which being his displacement as the sole *diksa* Guru for ISKCON. The ISKCON Revival Movement (IRM) seeks to restore ISKCON to its former glory, purity and philosophical chastity through the re-institution of all the instructions and standards that Srila Prabhupada gave, beginning with his role as the sole authority and *diksa* Guru for ISKCON. The IRM's position is set out in *The Final Order* - see back page to order your [free](#) copy.





Readers' questions and challenges

"It is good to hear from Srila Prabhupada directly, but some people say that parampara should not stop, it should continue - even Srila Prabhupada himself says somewhere, "In my absence my disciples should become leaders".

-Sriganesh S., Mysore, India

Editor replies:

Yes, the parampara (disciplic succession) should continue, and it does continue with Srila Prabhupada. It is the GBC which has stopped the parampara by removing Srila Prabhupada as the authorised current link, and instead installing unauthorised gurus, who by dint of their lack of authorisation cannot connect anyone to the parampara. Hence, they have cut off all future generations from the parampara. It is to rectify this great blunder that the IRM is restoring Srila Prabhupada as the only authorised and bona fide current link to the parampara. And Srila Prabhupada never taught that the current link to the parampara ceases to be current as soon as he leaves the planet, even though he has not authorised a new, succeeding current link to the parampara. Rather, he remains the Guru available to his disciples and those who wish to become his disciples. So Srila Prabhupada is continuing to represent the parampara for future generations. It is a fact that in his absence Srila Prabhupada did want all of us to become leaders and act as *siksa* gurus (instructing gurus or preachers), but he never authorised anyone to replace him as the *diksa* Guru for ISKCON:

"The GBC should all be the instructor gurus. I am the initiator guru, and you should be the instructor guru [...]"

(Srila Prabhupada Letter to GBC member, August 4th, 1975)

"Thank you for your magazine. [...] Criticism - too much attention given to what those bogus persons are doing in the ISKCON institution. Put that in the last half. [...] I want to open BTP and see immediately inspiration. Let Srila Prabhupada speak in front. [...] Remember original Back To Godhead photos of happy faces in service, that we need! Uplift the devotees! [...] Focus on the positive. Srila Prabhupada says "we are very positive" (Interview, 'Perfect Questions, Perfect Answers')."

-Dominique Rocanella, Greenfield, USA

Editor replies:

Thank you for sharing your views with us. The greatest inspiration can be had from reading Srila Prabhupada's books, watching his videos, listening to his tapes etc. We cannot compete with this, nor are we trying to! Rather, BTP magazine was created specifically to deal with the problem of the misleading, cheating and lies which are going on in Srila Prabhupada's name. Therefore, we do try and balance the information about the "bogus persons" with positive news, but, unfortunately, this messy job of cleaning up the nonsense requires a lot of work still to be done, and the attention devoted to this in the magazine reflects this.

For devotees to read that there is finally something being done about The Great Guru Hoax which has ravaged Srila Prabhupada's movement, and that Srila Prabhupada is still available, is the most positive and uplifting news. If you do not believe us, please see our letters page, where we have published some of the over 1500 positive letters we have already received!

We hope soon such work will not be necessary, and *Back To Prabhupada* and *Back To Godhead* will become one magazine for the Hare Krishna movement!

"The propaganda is hurtful and I don't believe that Srila Prabhupada would appreciate or approve of it. [...] Shame on you for using Srila Prabhupada's name and likeness to promote your own deviant philosophies. It just isn't nice."

- Laurence and Kathleen Fink, ISKCON Detroit, USA

Editor replies:

You say that "the propaganda is hurtful". What you mean to say is that the TRUTH is "hurtful", for there is absolutely nothing in BTP which you have even remotely identified as being untruthful. Yet Srila Prabhupada instructs us in the *Bhagavad-gita* to speak the truth, even when it is unpalatable:

"Satyam, truthfulness, means that facts should be presented as they are for the benefit of others. Facts should not be misrepresented. According to social conventions, it is said that one can speak the truth only when it is palatable to others. But that is not truthfulness. [...] If a man is a thief and if people are warned that he is a thief, that is truth. Although sometimes the truth is unpalatable, one should not refrain from speaking it."

(*Bhagavad-gita* As It Is, 10:4-5, purport)

Therefore, since what we are publishing is the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, Srila Prabhupada would most certainly appreciate and approve of it!

You accuse us of "using Srila Prabhupada's name and likeness to promote deviant philosophies." What you mean to say is that we are using Srila Prabhupada's name and likeness to promote *him* as the Guru of his own movement.

It is the GBC who are using Srila Prabhupada's name to promote THEIR deviant philosophy that they, and not Srila Prabhupada, are the gurus of *his* movement! Shame on them. It just isn't nice.

"Please let me know the names of gurus who have fallen down. This is to keep a watch on what is happening."

-Raghavendra Rao, Houston, Texas, USA

Editor replies:

The following is a list of former ISKCON "gurus" who are no longer initiating in ISKCON, with over one dozen more having been censured.

In reality every "guru" in ISKCON is fallen, since they have all disobeyed Srila Prabhupada by usurping his position as the sole authorised *diksa* Guru (initiating spiritual master) of ISKCON:

1. Agrani Swami
2. Ananda Svarupa Swami
3. Astaratha Das
4. Atreya Rsi Das
5. Bhagavan Das Goswami
6. Bhakti Balabh Puri
Goswami / Balabhadra Das
7. Bhakti Abhaya Carana Swami
8. Bhaktiprabhava Maharaj
9. Bhaktivaidurya Madhava -
formerly Rohini Kumar Swami
10. Bhavananda Goswami
11. Ganapati Swami
12. Hansadutta Swami
13. Harikesa Swami
14. Isvara Swami
15. Jagad Guru Swami
16. Jagadish Goswami
17. Jayatirtha Das
18. Kirtanananda Swami
19. Mahabhagavata Swami
20. Maharam Das Adhikari
21. Narahari Swami
22. Pancadravida Swami
23. Paramananda Das Adhikari
24. Prthu Das
25. Radha Krsna Swami
26. Ramesvara Swami
27. Rohini Suta Das
28. Rukmini Pati Das
29. Rupanuga Das
30. Satsvarupa Das Goswami
31. Somaka Swami
32. Suhotra Swami
33. Vaninatha Vasu Das
34. Vipramukhya Swami

ISKCON's 5-step cheating plan exposed

When discussing why Srila Prabhupada's July 9th, 1977 *ritvik* directive for ISKCON should not be followed, followers of the guru hoax have all been trained robot-like to immediately activate a 5-step program of false arguments. We illustrate and dismantle this program of false arguments, by analysing one such real discussion which took place between the IRM and a leader of the Pandava Sena, ISKCON's international youth group, in August, 2007. The leader has not been named as he requested anonymity, and will be referred to only as "the author". His arguments will be enclosed in the tinted panels, with our response given underneath.

What is diksa? – 1

"He means Siksa Disciple just like Srila Prabhupada says in BG we are rupanugas which means Srila rupa Goswami is the leader of us in terms of siksa. It can't be diksa because I never met him served him what to speak of take diksa from him."

Here it is asserted that a *diksa* relationship (whereby the disciple receives spiritual initiation from the Guru) cannot exist unless the disciple and Guru meet. Of course, this at a stroke disenfranchises many of Srila Prabhupada's disciples who were initiated by him, even though they never met him, and thus this alone tells us that the statement must be false.

What is diksa? – 2

"Let me clarify what I said when I made the statement I am saying in the context that I was not not physically on the planet at the same time as Srila Prabhupada to receive Diksa from him or the personalities who he gave permission to initiate on his behalf before Srila Prabhupada left the planet."

Having realized his huge blunder in stating that *diksa* must require a meeting, the author now proposes that this is not necessary as long as Srila Prabhupada is on the planet, and he had appointed *ritviks* to initiate on his behalf. Now we have an even more absurd proposition – that *diksa* does not require any contact between the Guru and disciple, only if the Guru is present somewhere on the planet, even though contact with him never needs to be made! Srila Prabhupada has never given this "must be around for NO physical contact" definition for what can constitute *diksa*.

History

"This is relevant because my question to you was 'Is there any historical event of a *ritvik* initiation in any Vaishnava Parampara where the Guru wasn't physically present on the planet?' The reason for this question was to make the point that Srila Prabhupada wouldn't go against Vedic Culture, Vedic Philosophy, Our Acharyas or even Krsna!!!. Srila Prabhupada followed the Acharyas as this is the nature and tradition of a parampara."

Here the point is made that unless all of Srila Prabhupada's actions can be matched with a previous "historical event", then he would be going against "Vedic culture, Vedic Philosophy, Our Acharyas or even Krsna". Only Srila Prabhupada himself never states this – that his actions must always repeat previous historical events, otherwise they would be "unVedic". Unless such an "historical event repeater clause" can be quoted from Srila Prabhupada, it is irrelevant to try and match Srila Prabhupada's actions with previous historical events to determine their bona fideness. Quotes stating we must follow the previ-

ous *acaryas* can only refer to their teachings, and not to replicating every single historical event they enacted, otherwise Srila Prabhupada could never conduct an initiation in a country where an initiation had not been conducted previously, for instance; which, of course, would be ludicrous. And the previous *acaryas* do not teach this "historical event repeater clause" either. Indeed, Srila Prabhupada tells us:

"An *acarya* who comes for the service of the Lord cannot be expected to conform to a stereotype, for he must find the ways and means by which Krsna consciousness may be spread."

(Sri Caitanya-caritamṛta, *Adi-lila*, 7.31-32, purport)

Guru, sadhu and sastra

"As you have different interpretations of Srila Prabhupada statement to ISKCON therefore I used the check list of Guru Sadhu & Sastra to illustrate to you there is no basis of your idea of a *ritvik* system anywhere in our history: 'We have to follow these three principles. Sadhu-guru-sastra-vakya tēnete koriya aikya. [...] If sastra-vidhi you give up, then where is the question of guru and sadhu? Na siddhim. He's not siddha. He has not attained the perfection, because he has rejected the principles of sastra. So he's bogus. We have to test like that who is guru.' Srimad-Bhagavatam 7.6.2 - Toronto, June 18, 1976"

Here we see a classic misuse of the "guru, sadhu and sastra" principle. The author claims he has used "guru, sadhu and sastra" to illustrate that there is no basis for *ritvik* "anywhere in our history". He has firstly confused two completely different concepts. One is the idea of "historical events" needing to be repeated, which we covered in the previous section.

The other is that the statements of *guru, sadhu* and *sastra*, are used to TEST THE GURU, according to the quote provided by the author himself to back up his assertion, as seen above. Yet we are not testing any Guru, as we know that Srila Prabhupada's statements are already bona fide, since the statements of the Guru are always in line with *sadhu* and *sastra*: **"Sadhu, sastra and guru. Guru means who follows the sastra and sadhu. So there are three, the same."** [SP Lecture, 30/11/76]]. The author, rather, claims he is dealing with our "interpretations of Srila Prabhupada statement". In which case all he needs to do is match our "interpretation" with what Srila Prabhupada actually states, and see whether or not the "interpretation" is indeed an interpretation, or what Srila Prabhupada actually states. The author does not do this, since then, of course, it will indeed be shown that the IRM simply repeats Srila Prabhupada's directives verbatim: "On July 9th, 1977 a *ritvik* system of initiation was authorised by Srila Prabhupada for ISKCON." Instead, to get around this fact, "guru, sadhu and sastra" is thrown around, mixed in with "history", to try and provide some "scholarly" response. When the reality is much simpler. If indeed we are claiming something different from Srila Prabhupada's order, what we claim can simply be matched up to Srila Prabhupada's order, and the difference shown.

Sastric (scriptural) basis

"Can you give me a sastric basis for your philosophy i.e. Where in scripture does it say that the guru doesn't need to be on the planet to give diksa? When I say scripture I mean to make it clear Sruti and smṛiti scriptures."

More mass confusion.

1) We are not presenting any

new "philosophy". We are simply asking that an order from Srila Prabhupada be followed. This proposition is the definition of how ISKCON is supposed to run. If anyone does not accept this, then let them leave ISKCON.

2) The author is asking where in *sastra* does it state that a restriction - that the Guru is restricted to being no further away than the diameter of the planet from where the initiation ceremony is conducted at the time of the ceremony (even though he does not need to meet the disciple, or participate in the ceremony in any way) - is not required. But since *sastra* does not state such a restriction exists in the first place, there is no need for it to state that such a restriction is NOT required! For example, *sastra* does not state that the Guru does not need to be in the same country (instead of on the same planet) as where the initiation ceremony is conducted, because such a restriction (needing to be in the same country as the initiate) is not given by *sastra* to begin with. And therefore, Srila Prabhupada was freely able to initiate many disciples even though he was not physically present in the same country as where the initiation ceremony was taking place, because he cannot be bound by a restriction that is not stated by *sastra*. Asking where in scripture it states a restriction is NOT required, simply assumes that which needs to be proven, because there is no need for scripture to state a restriction is NOT required, if *sastra* has not stated the restriction exists to begin with!

3) Actually, scripture already states the principle that a bona fide Guru initiates a disciple, which is all that is being proposed. It is those who propose restrictions and conditions onto this principle of the Guru-disciple relationship, who must substantiate these restrictions on the Guru-disciple principle by stating where in *sastra* such restric-

tions are given. For example, Srila Prabhupada states that initiation can only be taken from the current link in the disciplic succession (see *Srimad-Bhagavatam*, 2.9.7. purport). So this is one such condition which has been stated and we must accept it (thus we cannot "jump over" the current *acarya* Srila Prabhupada and take initiation from Jiva Goswami, for instance). But the condition that the Guru must be on the planet at the exact moment the initiation ceremony takes place, has not been given by *sastra* and therefore cannot be proposed by the GBC to try and restrain the Guru-disciple relationship between Srila Prabhupada and the members of ISKCON.

Authority

"Our authority in ISKCON is only Srila Prabhupada." (IRM statement).

"I don't have a problem with that Statement (above) as I accept Srila Prabhupada as my foremost Siksa guru!!"

Then any conclusions regarding the philosophy and teachings of Krishna consciousness to be applied in ISKCON must be authorised by a statement from Srila Prabhupada, by definition. Yet the author goes on to say that we have a "*siksa parampara*". But Srila Prabhupada does not state this, and when challenged to provide Srila Prabhupada stating the above, the author replies:

"So If I want to prove Krsna is God and I use just the verses of Bhagavad Gita to substantiate it instead of using a Srila Prabhupada quote then it is not authorized?"

Again, more elementary mistakes, this time regarding the concept of what constitutes authority. The *Bhagavad-gita* verses and purports are received only through Srila Prabhupada's trans-



lations and commentaries, otherwise any statements are NOT authorised, because the translation of the verse, and what one thinks it meant, could differ from the translation and explanation given by Srila Prabhupada. Otherwise with over 600 different editions of the *Bhagavad-gita* already existing, what need was there for Srila Prabhupada to present yet another one?

Siksa** line

"It seems that everytime I make a point you are not aware of the facts for example our parampara having siksa connection (Jaganath Das Babaji Maharaj and Bhaktivinoda Thakur) then I'm being controversial when its an obvious fact."

And to illustrate the point just made above, that all statements must be authorised by Srila Prabhupada, we can note that what the author states is an "obvious fact" is so obvious that Srila Prabhupada states the opposite:

"Viswanath Chakrabarty accepted Jagannath Das Babajee from whom Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakore was initiated."

(*Back To Godhead*, Vol. 3, part 16, March 20th, 1960)

"Srila Visvanatha Cakravarti Thakura accepted Srila Jagannatha dasa Babaji, who initiated Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura."

(*Sri Caitanya-caritamrta*, *Adi-lila* 1, "The Spiritual Masters", original 1975 edition)

****Preceptorial line as opposed to one by diksa, or Initiation**

Conclusion

Above we have dissected the most common diversions used to try and avoid following Srila Prabhupada's directive for initiation in ISKCON:

1) First a fabricated definition of *diksa* will be given.

2) Then a fabricated standard that the Guru can not order anything which has not happened previously in history is given.

3) Then for good measure the "*guru, sadhu and sastra*" challenge is given, to avoid actually checking what the Guru, Srila Prabhupada, states.

4) Added to this will be a demand for *sastra* to state that a restriction, which itself is a fabrication, does NOT need to be present, something which would only be necessary if the restriction was true to begin with!

5) And all this is "backed up" by throwing in "facts" outside the teachings of Srila Prabhupada.

Have a discussion with any follower of the guru hoax, and without fail the above 5-step cheating program is usually activated, as it was in this case. Only, as with all hoaxes and cheating, it cannot stand in the face of the truth, as has also been demonstrated.

BTP continues issue after issue to nail the lies, destroy the false arguments, expose the cheating, and establish the truth, so that those who dare to disobey Srila Prabhupada's orders are finally being called to account for their Great Guru Hoax, and they can no longer hide behind a smoke-screen of absurd excuses masquerading as "scriptural arguments".

Bhakti Charu Swami's original understanding

Issue 6 of *BTP* carried an article entitled "The hoax that Jayapataka built" in which we showed how one of Srila Prabhupada's Godbrother's, HH Sridhara Maharaja ("SM"), was cynically exploited by the GBC to lend legitimacy to their guru hoax. This was done by HH Jayapataka Swami ("JPS") totally misrepresenting Srila Prabhupada's instructions on initiation to him:

"Maharaja, when our Srila Prabhupada left, then he has given instruction that for initiating and for carrying on the sampradaya - in the beginning, he appointed eleven devotees, his disciples, to be initiating spiritual masters..."

(JPS/GBC conversation with Sridhara Maharaja, March 1978).

Readers of *BTP* will know that the above is total mythology. Srila Prabhupada only ever appointed eleven disciples to initiate on his behalf as *ritviks* (officiating priests), not on their own behalf as initiating spiritual masters. But SM was not to know this and for the next couple of years continued to believe the lies he was told by JPS.

By 1980, The Great Guru Hoax, Part 1 was already experiencing some serious problems, and this time SM was once again approached for advice, this time by HH Bhakti Charu Swami ("BCS"), along with his Godbrother Dhira Krishna Swami ("DKS"). This despite Srila Prabhupada having specifically warned his disciples not to associate closely with his Godbrothers due to their own deviation from the instructions of Srila Bhaktisiddhanta (Srila Prabhupada's spiritual master) over exactly the same issue of initiation (see *BTP* Special Summary Issue, page 14).

All quotes below are from this discussion with SM, held in Navadvipa, India on August 18th, 1980. Firstly, BCS relays that one of the 11 guru hoaxers, Ramesvara,

had begun to doubt the guru hoax worship system they had concocted, and in the process decided he no longer wished to sit on his huge *Vyasaasana* (elaborate seat of honour which was standard for all the "zonal *acaryas*"):

BCS: "But Ramesvara Maharaja felt that this practice is minimizing Prabhupada's position. That's why he removed his own *asana* and other *asanas* as well. Now only Srila Prabhupada's *asana* is there."

Then BCS explains that two of the other 11 hoaxers, Hansadutta Maharaja ("HM") and Tamal Krishna Goswami ("TKG"), had been removed from their positions as guru:

SM: "Has Hansadutta Maharaja been removed from that temporary or permanently?"

BCS: "Maharaja is asking, the removal of Hansadutta Maharaja is temporary or permanent?"

DKS: "Of the zone? It's permanent."

BCS: "Permanent."

SM: "Permanent. Tamal Krsna was permanently removed?"

DKS: "From America..."

BCS: "Permanently removed."

The new Jesus Christ

HM had been removed for violations involving illicit sex and other illicit activities, whilst TKG had been removed for claiming that he was the new Jesus Christ, and all of his Godbrothers and other gurus could only reach Srila Prabhupada through worshiping him only:

BCS: "Even *sannyasa* godbrothers, everyone. He was even telling that they cannot worship Srila Prabhupada. That, he was telling that they have to worship Srila Prabhupada through him. In other

words, they have to worship him instead of Prabhupada.[...] He was telling that he is the way, like Jesus Christ."

(It was apparently in retaliation at this removal that a few months later TKG spoke the "Topanga Canyon Confessions", in which he revealed that actually ALL of the 11 "zonal *acaryas*" had only been appointed *ritviks*, and not *diksa* gurus. TKG's confession worked, and his removal was revoked, and he revoked his "confessions". After that the guru hoax continued as before, with the assumption that indeed eleven gurus rather than only *ritviks*, had been appointed).

Then BCS revealed his own doubts, echoing the position espoused by the IRM:

BCS: "Actually, one of the questions is that whether Prabhupada really appointed them as guru. Because so far we didn't find the... enough proof to confirm that..."

SM: "What is the basis of the *acaryas*?"

BCS: "That is Prabhupada said that they can be *ritviks*."

SM: "They can be?"

BCS: "*Ritvik*."

SM: "*Ritvik*."

BCS: "Yes, on behalf of Prabhupada they can initiate."

SM: "During his lifetime. During his lifetime these eleven were appointed as his assistant. They could also initiate during his lifetime?"

BCS: "No, not during his lifetime. During his lifetime a... they can initiate on behalf of Prabhupada. But after Prabhupada left, who will initiate Prabhupada did not clearly mention. This doubt is coming up now."

So here we see that way back in 1980, BCS was saying exactly what *BTP* is saying today, a position which he is now happy to see

branded as heresy by ISKCON's GBC. That Srila Prabhupada only ever appointed eleven *ritviks* to initiate on his behalf and that there is no instruction for anyone to initiate "after Srila Prabhupada left" in any different capacity. As the conversation progressed, BCS also appears to agree with *BTP*'s understanding of the May 28th, 1977 conversation (as given in *The Final Order*), stating that the following line - "Who is initiating... he is grand-disciple" - means:

BCS: "Here it sounds that Prabhupada is saying that actually they are Prabhupada's disciples. Who is initiating? Who is actually initiating? Prabhupada is initiating..."

No evidence was subsequently discovered by BCS to change his assertions that only *ritviks* had been appointed and Srila Prabhupada alone "is initiating", and that there was now "enough proof" to confirm anything else. But still he continued to support the guru hoax, and later on decided that instead of "Prabhupada is initiating" that now "BCS is initiating", when in 1986 he decided to get a piece of the guru action and join The Great Guru Hoax, Part 2:

"The GBC approves of the following devotees to begin the responsibility of initiating spiritual master after 1 year period and final deliberation. [...] f. Bhakticaru Swami"

(GBC resolution 19, April 4th, 1986)

Even though BCS is very happy to claim that 'Srila Prabhupada is the guru', he needs to actually begin ACTING on this platform, and stop being a hypocrite. We therefore urge BCS to abandon his current false path, return his disciples to Srila Prabhupada, and embrace the position which he himself once thought was true.



Sivarama Swami's slew of straw men

When someone is unable to refute an argument, he will often instead present an argument he can answer, and falsely present it as being the argument he cannot actually rebut. Such a technique is a logical fallacy called a "straw man" argument.

GBC voted-in guru hoaxer, HH Sivarama Swami ("SRS") will be shown here being forced to resort to using this technique, due to being unable to refute the IRM's position. All his quotations are taken from a book he has written called *Suddha Bhakti Cintamani*, and will be in the panels, with our responses following underneath.

Ritvik ordered, and standard

"Ritviks agree that their understanding of initiation is not standard, but they say that their recommended process for connecting with the disciplic succession is acceptable due to Srila Prabhupada's extraordinarily empowered status."

Straw man argument. This is not what we say. We say our understanding of initiation is standard, as far as Srila Prabhupada's teachings and practice are concerned. And it is acceptable not because of "Srila Prabhupada's extraordinarily empowered status" (not that we are denying it either!), but because it is what Srila Prabhupada ordered.

More straw men

"Yet the suggestion that Srila Prabhupada was empowered to act contrary to scripture and Vaisnava tradition—or would use his empowerment to do so—is an insult rather than praise."

Straw man argument. This has never been suggested by us, nor is it a fact. Indeed, the GBC have never been able to produce the scriptural injunction which is

violated by one's continuing to accept Srila Prabhupada as the initiating Guru.

The real spiritual heritage

"To suggest that Prabhupada was unchaste to his spiritual heritage—that he was an independent, absolute authority—is to attribute to him a status the *kartabhaja sahajiyas* attribute to their gurus."

Straw man argument. We are not suggesting this. Rather, the spiritual heritage which Srila Prabhupada inherited is explained by Srila Prabhupada himself:

"Every acarya has a specific means of propagating his spiritual movement with the aim of bringing men to Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Therefore, the method of one acarya may be different from that of another, but the ultimate goal is never neglected."

(*Sri Caitanya-caritamṛta*, *Adi-līla*, 7:37, purport)

No explanation at all

"It also resembles the *Mayavada* philosophy in the way it twists the meaning of scripture to suit its own preconceived conclusions by means of the indirect explanations called *gauna-vṛtti*."

But it is the GBC, which has NO explanation for its position, never mind even "indirect", having withdrawn its position paper due to admitting it has no evidence to support its conclusion (please see *BTP Special Issue*, Proof 6).

Explicitly empowered

"Moreover, the *rtviks'* core argument that ISKCON's future generations have an inherited right to a direct *diksa* connection with Srila Prabhupada is much akin to the *jata-gosani sahajiyas*, who claim a spiritual lineage to Lord

Nityananda, for instance, solely by seminal ties. Both groups lay claim to a concocted spiritual heritage without the explicit empowerment from their founder."

But, as we have seen, our position is not based on any concoction, but actually "explicit empowerment" from Srila Prabhupada by way of his orders, given in the July 9th, 1977 directive, his Last Will and Testament, the GBC resolutions he approved, and all the other evidences we have produced. Please see *The Final Order*, and our other papers, as well as the *BTP Special Summary Issue*. Srila Prabhupada established himself as the sole *diksa* Guru for ISKCON in 1966, and continually from that time onwards until 1977, he only stated that this state of affairs must continue, and not change. How much more explicit can one be?

"Jumped-up" argument

"This core argument also clears the way for all devotees for all time to jump over the line of disciplic succession to Srila Prabhupada. It obscures the truth that serving the servant of the servant is superior to direct service. It also opens a Pandora's Box by allowing anyone direct access to any member of the disciplic succession, including Kṛṣṇa Himself."

An implied straw man argument, since it deliberately ignores the fact that we specifically follow Srila Prabhupada's directive that:

"...in order to receive the real message of *Srimad-Bhagavatam* one should approach the current link, or spiritual master, in the chain of disciplic succession."

(*Srimad-Bhagavatam*, 2:9:7, purport)

Thus, it is not possible for anyone to have direct access to anyone except the current link in the

disciplic succession, which is Srila Prabhupada.

Pot calling kettle black

"Another faction that may damage the faith of Prabhupadanugas [...] These devotees are either former members of ISKCON or current members of the Gaudiya Matha."

SRS here also attempts to attack the followers of the Gaudiya Matha in his diatribe, which of course is one subject he is actually eminently qualified to speak on, having himself been a leading participant in the mid-1990s in following Narayana Maharaja of the Gaudiya Matha, and thus is guilty of everything he speaks of here.

Conclusion

SRS continues the GBC tradition of making up false arguments when discussing the IRM's position, since they cannot address what we actually say. SRS does at least concede that the "ritvik philosophy" is coming from:

"apparently well-wishing followers of Srila Prabhupada."

This is a marked change from trying to characterise us as demons, specifically out to destroy ISKCON, and echoes the statement made in the official GBC paper submitted as part of the debate organized by Martin Luther University, Germany, which stated:

"There is no doubt that both ISKCON's leadership and the IRM have acted and are acting to establish what each considers the correct theological conclusion with regard to the affairs of gurus and disciples."

(Full paper available at:

www.iskconirm.com/krishnakirti.pdf)

The Great Guru Hoax, Part 3 - in action!

We have continually remarked that because the ISKCON gurus have no potency, they need to wheel out Srila Prabhupada when convenient in order to attract followers and motivate them to get anything done. We gave an example of this in *BTP 17*, where Srila Prabhupada needing to be a major part of every ISKCON member's life was suddenly invoked simply to keep ISKCON devotees from defecting to HH Narayana Maharaja of the Gaudiya Matha. Below we see another shameless exploitation of Srila Prabhupada, this time by ISKCON GBC voted-in guru HH Sivarama Swami ("SRS"), when sending this message to his disciples to try and motivate them to sell books:

"30 years ago as temple president of Chicago I went out with the devotees from 6am to 8pm to O'Hare Airport. Our goal was each devotee distributing 100 *maha*-big books daily, minimum. We knew by distributing books we could be with Prabhupada, our guru, our friend, our best well-wisher, our only key to Krsna, and Lord Caitanya's foremost preacher. And that was the only way we wanted to live: always with Srila Prabhupada. Today, as then, Srila Prabhupada should be served thus. Today, as then, we should want to be with Prabhupada. Thus let us make today our "Special Prabhupada Day!" [...] Keeping Srila Prabhupada's smile as our meditation, let's do something wonderful today. Call out "Srila Prabhupada *ki jaya!*" and he will be by your side. Never think you are alone." (SMS text from SRS to *Sankirtana* devotees, November 28th, 2007)

- 1) Because books need to be distributed and money collected, devotees are suddenly urged to focus on Srila Prabhupada, and serve him in an identical fashion to how Srila Prabhupada was served by his disciples 30 years ago.
- 2) This is done so that devotees today can live always with Srila Prabhupada, exactly as was being done by Srila Prabhupada's disciples 30 years ago.
- 3) And in this way, Srila Prabhupada is said to always be at the side of *sankirtana* devotees (preachers), just as he would have been at the side of his disciples 30 years ago.

So the service being done, the reciprocation one receives from Srila Prabhupada, and the result of the service - remains identical to how a disciple served Srila Prabhupada 30 years ago. The only thing which has to change is that they can't be his disciples! Rather, they must be disciples of the person sending them this message, who will gather the fruits of their endeavour for himself, as their actual "guru". This is an example of using the approach that Srila Prabhupada is practically like one's guru, but in reality is not, which typifies The Great Guru Hoax, Part 3, which we have highlighted in our editorial as now being the standard cheating device in ISKCON and elsewhere. The hypocrisy and shamelessness in exploiting Srila Prabhupada by ISKCON gurus to try and prop up their little guru empires is breathtaking. They do not even mind allowing "their" disciples to think of themselves acting just like disciples of Srila Prabhupada temporarily, if it helps them maintain their guru program.

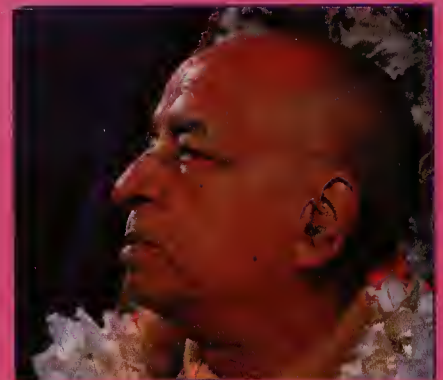


HH Sivarama Swami:

Invoking
Srila Prabhupada
when it suits

Srila Prabhupada:

"Our guru, our friend, our best
well-wisher, our only key to
Krishna"



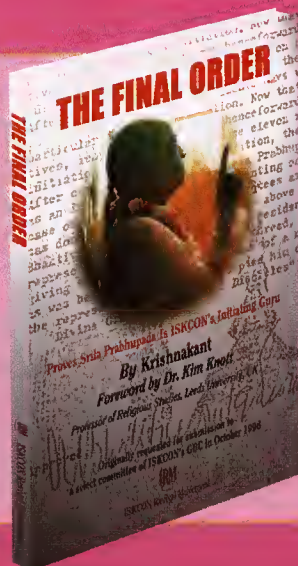
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From the Foreword by Professor
Kim Knott, Head of Religious Studies,
Leeds University, UK